

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of May 23, 2005. Nonelected Claims 30-33 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a divisional application. Claim 16 has been amended. Claims 1-29 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Preliminarily, Applicants would like to acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of Claims 1-9 and 21-29 and to stress that the following arguments in no way are intended to limit the full scope of those claims.

The Examiner rejected Claims 16-20 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection has been overcome by a minor amendment correcting the dependency of Claim 16 from Claim 10 to Claim 11.

The Examiner rejected Claims 10-11 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishigami et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

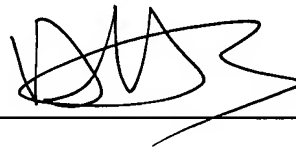
It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has misinterpreted the Ishigami et al. reference in applying it to Claim 10 since that reference does not disclose a "means...for controlling" which stabilizes the first loop gain at a value offset from a minimum of a loop gain control function, as claimed. In applying this claim element to Ishigami et al., the Examiner referred to paragraph 35 of Ishigami et al. which states that variable attenuator 16 is normally offset to a predetermined initial value. However, this offset value is not the first loop gain. The first loop gain is the difference between the signals B and C and is controlled by the combination of attenuator 16 and attenuator 3. The attenuator 3 is varied to control the B and C signals to be equal and the first loop gain stabilized at zero offset (paragraph 36). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Ishigami et al. reference, when properly interpreted, does not disclose the invention of Claim 10 and the rejection is fully traversed.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney if it appears that any impediment remains to allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8-3-05

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Henty', written over a horizontal line.

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